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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/788,391	02/21/2001	Hiroyasu Fujiwara	826.1680/JDH	5413

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EXAMINER

LY, ANH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2172

DATE MAILED: 06/13/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/788,391

Applicant(s)

FUJIWARA, HIROYASU

Examiner

Anh Ly

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 February 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is response to applicant's communication filed on 02/21/2001.
2. Claims 1-5 are pending in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1 and 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,713,020 issued to Reiter et al. (hereinafter Reiter) in view of US Patent No. 6,298,348 issued to Toyoshima et al. (hereinafter Toyoshima).

With respect to claim 1, Reiter discloses a to-be-totalized information storage unit for storing information to be totalized (input table storing information to be aggregated: col. 9, lines 10, 15); computing unit for totalizing the information stored in the to-be-totalized information storage unit according to the hierarchical information stored in the hierarchical information storage unit (hierarchical table storing the hierarchical

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aggregation information and from which is transmitted to the display device for display to the user, which is created by database engine for storing, manipulating and retrieving data: col. 3, lines 2-4 and lines 48-50; also see col. 1, lines 63-67).

As to the limitation, "a hierarchical information storage unit for storing hierarchical information used in totalizing the information to be totalized," Reiter does not explicitly indicate that the stored hierarchical information.

However, Toyoshima discloses an information database for storing certain information data items arranged in a hierarchy, from which the information data items to be displayed (col. 2, lines 18-30).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Reiter with the teachings of Toyoshima so as to obtain the hierarchical information for manipulating, retrieval, and displaying the designed hierarchical level (col. 1, lines 65-67). This combination would have made the system for displaying resource data items stored in the database associated with the keyword data items included in designated information (col. Toyoshima – col. 2, lines 1-6) and responding to the action of designating the hierarchical levels of data items to be displayed (Toyoshima – col. 5, lines 5-15). Also the multi-level aggregation information is collected via the database engine (Reiter – col. 2, lines 60-67) in the display of hierarchical structure data file environment.

With respect to claim 4, Reiter discloses wherein the to-be-totalized information are classified into a plurality of groups, the hierarchical information storage unit stores hierarchical information about the plurality of groups, and the computing unit totalizes

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information stored in the to-be-totalized information storage unit on the basis of hierarchical information about any one of the groups (the aggregation information is classified or grouped by category name, order ID in each hierarchical table: col. 3, lines 60-67 and col. 4, lines 1-8), and the computing unit totalizes information stored in the to-be-totalized information storage unit on the basis of hierarchical information about any one of the groups (hierarchical table storing the hierarchical aggregation information and from which is transmitted to the display device for display to the user, which is created by database engine for storing, manipulating and retrieving data: col. 3, lines 2-4 and lines 48-50; also see col. 1, lines 63-67).

Claim 5 is essentially the same as claim 1 except that it is directed to a computer readable recording medium rather than a method ('020 of input table storing information to be aggregated: col. 9, lines 10, 15; and '349 of col. 2, lines 18-30), and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 1 hereinabove.

5. Claims 2-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,713,020 issued to Reiter et al. (hereinafter Reiter) in view of US Patent No. 6,298,348 issued to Toyoshima et al. (hereinafter Toyoshima) and further in view of US Patent NO. 6,557,002 issued to Fujieda et al. (hereinafter Fujieda).

With respect to claim 2, Reiter in view of Toyoshima discloses a totalization system as discussed in claim 1. Also Toyoshima discloses hierarchical information display means for display hierarchical information levels, which are stored in the

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database and displaying data items in a designated hierarchical level (col. 1, lines 60-67).

As to the limitation, "if necessary, information at a hierarchical level lower than the arbitrary level or totalization results for information at the lower hierarchical level," Reiter in view of Toyoshima does not explicitly indicate that displaying information of the hierarchical level lower. .

However, Fujieda discloses lower hierarchical level of the type of the item (col. 6, lines 5-12 and col. 7, lines 20-30).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Reiter in view of Toyoshima with the teachings of Fujieda so as obtain the hierarchical information of the level lower than the arbitrary level to be displayed and in order to provide a structural element data management system which can easily and accurately execute a change of parts structure of a product for displaying (Fujieda - col. 2, lines 55-67 and col. 3, lines 1-3). Also a user can easily totalize data of a hierarchical structure according to a totalizing level with very high practicality (Reiter - col. 2, lines 12-16). This combination would have made the system for displaying identification information designated by user (Fujieda - col. 3, lines 20-25), and displaying resource data items stored in the database associated with the keyword data items included in designated information (col. Toyoshima - col. 2, lines 1-6) and responding to the action of designating the hierarchical levels of data items to be displayed (Toyoshima - col. 5, lines 5-15). Also

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the multi-level aggregation information is collected via the database engine (Reiter – col. 2, lines 60-67) in the display of hierarchical structure data file environment.

With respect to claim 3, Reiter in view of Toyoshima discloses a totalization system as discussed in claim 1. Also Toyoshima discloses hierarchical information display means for display hierarchical information levels, which are stored in the database and displaying data items in a designated hierarchical level (col. 1, lines 60-67).

As to the limitation, “the display control unit controls display of information at an even lower hierarchical level or totalization results for information at the even lower hierarchical level,” Reiter in view of Toyoshima does not explicitly indicate that displaying information of the hierarchical level lower. .

However, Fujieda discloses lower hierarchical level of the type of the item (col. 6, lines 5-12 and col. 7, lines 20-30).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Reiter in view of Toyoshima with the teachings of Fujieda so as obtain the hierarchical information of the level lower than the arbitrary level to be displayed and in order to provide a structural element data management system which can easily and accurately execute a change of parts structure of a product for displaying (Fujieda - col. 2, lines 55-67 and col. 3, lines 1-3). Also a user can easily totalize data of a hierarchical structure according to a totalizing level with very high practicality (Reiter – col. 2, lines 12-16). This combination would have made the system for displaying identification information designated by user

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(Fujieda – col. 3, lines 20-25), and displaying resource data items stored in the database associated with the keyword data items included in designated information (col. Toyoshima – col. 2, lines 1-6) and responding to the action of designating the hierarchical levels of data items to be displayed (Toyoshima – col. 5, lines 5-15). Also the multi-level aggregation information is collected via the database engine (Reiter – col. 2, lines 60-67) in the display of hierarchical structure data file environment.

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Contact Information

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Anh Ly whose telephone number is (703) 306-4527 via E-Mail: **ANH.LY@USPTO.GOV**. The examiner can be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, see the examiner's supervisor, Kim Vu, can be reached on (703) 305-4393.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to: (703) 746-7238 (after Final Communication and intended for entry)


or: (703) 746-7239 (for formal communications intended for entry)


or: (703) 746-7240 (for informal or draft communications, please

label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Fourth Floor (receptionist).

Inquiries of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

AL 
Jun. 6th, 2003


SHAHID AL ALAM
PATENT EXAMINER
